Vol. 38, No. 1

Fort Sam Houston - Home of Army Medicine

Jan. 5, 2006

Briefs . . .

Martin Luther King commemoration

The Fort Sam Houston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday commemoration will be Jan. 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center on Stanley Road. The guest speaker will be Dr. Carey H. Latimore, professor of African American studies at Trinity University. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Boehringer at 221-9276.

Walters Street gate update

Phase one of the Walters Street Access Control Point upgrade project started Monday and will continue through Feb. 3. The exit lane will remain open; however, the two inbound lanes will be closed for about 30 days. All traffic, with or without a decal, must enter through the two inbound visitor's entrance lanes. Upon entry, drivers must turn right on Parker Street or go straight on 7th Street in front of the clothing sales facility; 7th Street will be one way north to Wilson Street.

The project will take about 75 days, and will be completed in three phases. To avoid delays, motorists who use the Walters Street entrance are encouraged to use an alternate ACP. For alternate routes and ACP schedules, see chart on Page 3.

BAMC parking lot closure

Parking lot A, south entrance at Brooke Army Medical Center, is closed to ensure the safety of BAMC visitors and patients during the construction of the Center of the Intrepid. Drivers should be vigilant and drive slowly in lot A due to an increase of pedestrian traffic.

BAMC driveway closure

The Brooke Army Medical Center Main Bed tower entrance driveway will be closed for construction Monday through Jan. 20. The Main Bed tower entrance doors and walkway will still be available for use.

Senior leadership prayer breakfast

The 32nd Medical Brigade senior leadership prayer breakfast will be Friday at 7 a.m. in the Sam Houston Club. The speaker is Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, commanding general, U.S. Army Accessions Command and deputy commanding general, Initial Military Training. Senior leaders of the military community are invited. For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Etterbeek at 221-4210 or 221-4362 or Chaplain (Capt.) Luis Lopez at 221-5254.

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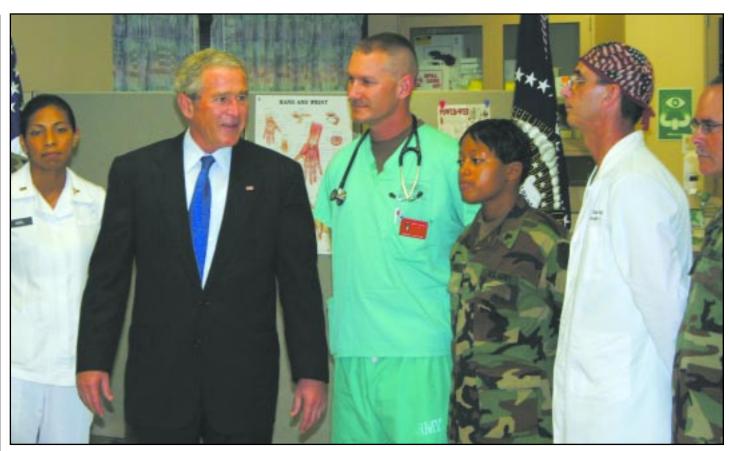


Photo by Michael Dulevitz

President George W. Bush speaks with the press Sunday at Brooke Army Medical Center. During his visit to BAMC, the president presented nine Soldiers with Purple Heart medals and visited with wounded Soldiers and their families. The visit was the president's first to BAMC.

President rings in new year visiting troops at BAMC

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush visited Brooke Army Medical Center Sunday to wish wounded troops undergoing treatment there a happy new year, thank them for their sacrifice and present nine Purple Heart medals.

"I can't think of a better way to start 2006 than here at this fantastic hospital," Bush told reporters during a stop at Fort Sam Houston, where he met with 51 Soldiers and Marines, most of them injured in Iraq.

"This hospital is full of healers and compassionate people who care deeply about our men and women in uniform," the president said. It's also filled with what he called "courageous" young service members who, along with their loved ones, are

making great sacrifices as they serve their country.

"I am just so overwhelmed by the great strength of character," Bush said. "War is horrible. There are horrible consequences to war, (and) that's what you see in this building."

The president said he was equally struck by the "divine inspiration" he witnessed at work at the hospital. "I think we see God's work here every day," he said.

Bush said he was inspired by medical staffs that work around the clock to help ease suffering and save lives, family members who have kept their faith through adversity and wounded troops who told him they would return to Iraq in a minute if they could.

"Many of these troops understand that by defeating the enemy there, we don't have to face them here," he said. They also under-

See **PRESIDENT** on Page 4

All-American Bowl celebrates H.S. football

The 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl will be played Saturday at 12 p.m. at the Alamodome.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation ticket office has vouchers for free tickets for Soldiers and vouchers for discounted tickets for Soldier family packs and veterans' family packs. The ticket office is at the Sam Houston Club, and the vouchers can be redeemed at the Alamodome box office. Tickets can also be purchased at the Alamodome ticket office, or call Ticketmaster at 224-9600 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Two price levels are available to the general public: reserved seat tickets are \$25 and general admission tickets are \$12.

Prior to the Bowl, children of all ages will have the chance to attend a free Fan Fiesta interactive at Sunset Station from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by the game from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The Fan Fiesta will feature the U.S. Army rock wall, NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association vehicles,

the U.S. Army professional bull rider cowboys, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders, live music, food and games. A special pregame, "Saluting the American Soldier-Answering the Call to Duty," will start at 11 a.m. at the Alamodome.

Following the Bowl, the U.S. Army National Band Competition will entertain fans as the nation's top high school showstyle marching bands will compete to see who is America's top marching band.

The 2006 U.S. Army All-American Awards Dinner will be Friday in San Antonio with legendary coach Lou Holtz as the keynote speaker. One of the top awards presented at the dinner will be the PARADE All-America High School Football Player of the Year, honoring the nation's best football player.

For more information about Bowl events, visit www.allamericangames.com. For MWR ticket information, call 226-

(Source: U.S. Army)



Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden The East vies against the West during the 2005 All-American Bowl. The strongest and brightest players will face off Jan. 7 at 12 p.m. in the Alamodome for the 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl, a celebration of high school football.

Nomination season opens for Guard, Reserve employer awards

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Reservecomponent members will have a chance to recommend their employers to be recognized for supporting their military service, as the nomination season for the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards starts next week.

The nomination season opens Monday and continues through Feb. 28, said Tom Bullock, ESGR spokesman.

During last year's open season, reservecomponent members nominated 1,492 employers for the prestigious award. Fifteen winning employers were honored at a ceremony here last October.

To recommend their employers, Guard and Reserve members must answer 10 questions about support they receive from their employer. Questions target pay policies, benefits and leave policies, previous ESGR awards, supervisor training, ESGR advocacy, service member recognition, family support, deployed member support,

hiring preferences and general military support, Bullock said.

The 55 ESGR field committees will review all submitted nominations and verify the employer information received through the Web site. The ESGR National Ombudsman Team will then investigate all the nominations to ensure that employers are in compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Up to 15 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards will be presented here Sept. 19, Bullock said.

The Freedom Award is the highest in a series of Defense Department employer awards that include the Patriot Award, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Above and Beyond Award and the Pro Patria Award.

Winners of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards were Alticor Inc. in Ada, Mich.; Citizens Financial Group, Providence, R.I.; Eaton Corp., Cleveland; Enterprise Rent-a-Car, St. Louis; IDA Corp., Boise, Idaho; Los Angeles Police Department; Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections, Baton Rouge, La.; Pioneer Financial Services, Kansas City, Mo.; Ryland Homes, Calabasas, Calif.; Sears, Roebuck and Co., Hoffman Estates, Ill.; South Dakota State University, Brookings; State of Delaware, Dover; Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc., Torrance, Calif.; USAA, San Antonio; and Wachovia Corp., Charlotte, N.C.

These winners "set a high standard for all America's private and public employers," said David Janes, national chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, when announcing the 2005 winners in July.

The companies were selected based on a variety of factors — from providing pay differentials to extending health care, dental and life insurance coverage during employees' military mobilization, officials said. All have signed statements of support for the Guard and Reserve at the five-star level, which designates that they are strong advocates for the reserve components and role models for other companies.

"I cannot think of a better measure of the leadership and patriotism of a business organization than to be recognized for outstanding Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve," said Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey, keynote speaker at the 2005 awards ceremony in October. "And even more telling is that since the nomination has to be initiated by a Guard or Reserve member or family member employed by the company, it is truly driven from the bottom up."

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was initiated in 1996 to publicly recognize American employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who voluntarily serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserve, Harvey noted.

Other ESGR awards also recognize employer support for their Guard and Reserve members and can be presented directly by the employee or an ESGR field committee member.

For more information, visit the ESGR Web site at http://www.esgr.org/.

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Clay Walker serenades America's heroes

Story and photo by Andricka Hammonds Brooke Army Medical Center Public

Country music sensation Clay Walker performed for wounded warriors and staff at Brooke Army Medical Center Dec. 21.

The medical mall was flooded with fans welcoming him to BAMC, surpassing Walker's expectations of a small audience.

Walker's visit was arranged with the help of retired Maj. Gen. Leroy Sisco, avid supporter of the nation's troops and friend to Walker. Wounded service members from various branches of the military came to see Walker play.

As a result of his battle with multiple sclerosis, Walker is

familiar with what it's like to spend time in the hospital.

For those patients unable to attend the concert in the medical mall, Walker made a personal visit to the burn center and the amputee care center. He visited and signed autographs, while thanking the service members for their sacrifices. He exchanged email addresses with a few of the patients to keep in touch.

"His performance was genuine," said Master Sgt. Tom Carpenter, country music fan and BAMC amputee patient injured in the Global War on Terrorism. "I got a kick out of it."

Walker also made time to visit with staff, expressing his appreciation for their hard work in providing care to the nation's heroes. During the concert in the medical mall, Walker expressed his thanks for what the Soldiers do.

"Because of what you've given up for us, please know there is no way we could ever repay you other than say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are the reason why we can live free in this country," said Walker.

In the midst of screaming women lining the balconies in the medical mall, Walker smiled and began singing an old classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," while the crowd sang along.

"Clay gave a great performance. He really drove home the Christmas feeling," said Air Force Senior Airman Kevin



Air Force Senior Airman Kevin Close gets his poster signed by Clay Walker after the concert Dec. 21 in the Brooke Army Medical Center medical mall.

Close, BAMC amputee patient. "BAMC is like a home away

from home, having him here made me feel better."

DFAS distributing year-end pay, tax statements

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Service members, military retirees and annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2005 tax statements by mail soon, a DFAS official said.

In fact, most retirees and annuitants already may have received theirs, with the last hard-copy mailings slated for Saturday, the official confirmed.

Mailing for active-duty Army, Navy and Air Force W-2 forms won't begin until Jan. 24, but service members can access their forms on myPay beginning Jan. 21. W-2 mailings for reservists from the Army, Navy and Air Force will begin Wednesday; the forms are already available online.

Active duty and Reserve Marines can check their mailboxes after Jan. 12 or access their myPay accounts beginning Tuesday.

Mailing for DoD civilians' W-2s will begin Tuesday, and the forms will be posted on myPay beginning Monday.

An increasingly large percentage of the nearly 6 million people DFAS serves now receive their pay and tax statements electronically through myPay, the DFAS official said. By doing so, customers get their statements quicker and more securely, said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services.

A state-of-the-art encryption technology incorporated into the myPay system,

which users access through a personal identification number, safeguards personal information that is more vulnerable to theft when transmitted by mail, the official said.

DFAS clients who never have set up their myPay accounts or have forgotten their PINs can set up or get new ones through the myPay Web site, he said.

For more information, visit the myPay Web site at https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay. aspx or DFAS at http://www.defenselink.mil/dfas

Briefs cont. . . .

Range safety officer class

The Range Safety Officer class is Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. in Building 6107, Room 1A, at Camp Bullis. People should reserve a seat in advance. For more information or to arrange for training on another day, call Mabel Rodriguez at 295-7616 or e-mail mabel.rodriguez@samhouston.army.mil, or Patricia Jennings at 295-7686 or e-mail patricia.jennings@samhouston.army.mil.

Ammunition supply closures

The Fort Sam Houston Ammunition Supply Point will be closed on the following dates for inventory in 2006: Monday to Jan. 13, March 27 to 31, June 26 to 30 and Sept. 11 to 15. For emergency requests, call Vanessa C. Alford at 221-1065 or 669-5173.

Accident Avoidance training

Accident Avoidance training classes will be held today and Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon in Building 902. All military personnel under age 26 are required to take a minimum of four hours of classroom instruction in traffic safety. Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to send personnel who have been convicted of a serious moving traffic violation or were at fault in a traffic accident. The course is also open to civilian personnel. To sign up, call Mitch Geary at 221-3824.

AECP commissioning ceremony

The Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program will commission new second lieutenants into the U.S. Army Jan. 13 at 9 a.m. at Blesse Auditorium. For more information, call Capt. Carolyn Carden, commander, AMEDD student detachment, at 221-3141.

Tax Assistance Center to open Jan. 17

By Capt. Kate Evans
Tax Assistance Center

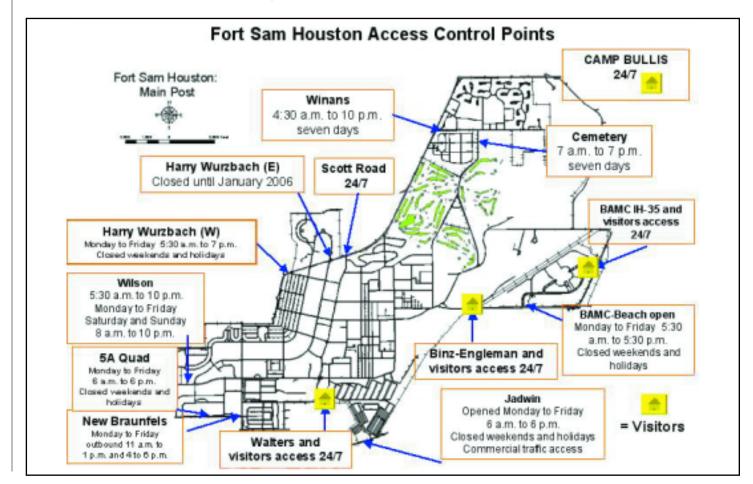
The 2006 Tax Assistance Center will open Jan. 18 at the 1st Legal Support Organization, Building 133A, 2420 Liscum Road, just behind the Garrison Staff Judge Advocate Office.

The Main Tax Center hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The center will be closed Sundays and major federal holidays.

Free tax assistance is available for all active duty service members, reservists on active duty, retirees and eligible family members. For eligible family members of deployed service members seeking tax services on behalf of the service member, an Internal Revenue Service Power of Attorney, Form 2848, or equivalent is required.

Several changes will be implemented this year to better meet the needs of taxpayers. First, the center will offer tax services to people filing 1040As or 1040s on an appointment basis, which will prevent long waits for taxpayers seeking services and improve the use of available resources. There also will be a 1040EZ drop-off service, where people can walk in, fill out information sheets, leave and return when they are notified that the tax returns are completed.

The center will offer e-filing for both federal and state returns. For more information, call 295-1040 or 295-0061 or visit http://www.samhouston.army.mil/tax/index.html.



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Fires Brigade Soldiers visit BAMC prior to deployment

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Malec Fires Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers from the Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's personal security detachment, also known as the guardians, traveled to Brooke Army Medical Center to visit the U.S. Army's Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center prior to a deployment to Iraq.

The group from Fort Hood, Texas, made the trip to meet with Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Layton, the BAMC command sergeant major, as well as to visit with wounded Soldiers.

Layton spoke with the guardians on promotions, assignments and deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He also reminded the group, comprising almost 80 percent Iraq combat veterans, on their vital role on the war on terrorism.

"You're supporting the fight no matter where you are in Iraq or anywhere else for that matter," said Layton. "Just remember that it does not matter where you are — Iraq, Fort Hood and even Fort Sam Houston — you are making a difference."

The Soldiers also met with Iraqi war veteran Sgt. Chris Edwards, who suffered massive burns to his face and upper body from an improvised explosive device while traveling to Baghdad in his Bradley fighting vehicle.

"Keep your head down and listen to those who've been in country for a while," said Edwards, offering advice to the Soldiers.

After many handshakes and some hugs, Edwards urged the Soldiers to do their best to stay as safe as possible.

"I don't want to see you back here at BAMC with me, so just stay safe, OK?" said Edwards. He and his wife, Tammy, pledged to send care packages once the Soldiers settled in country.

"Most of these guys just want to be seen, and not forgotten, and reminded that they are still a part of the Army family," Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela, Fires Bde. command sergeant major, said of the burn victims at BAMC.

"This is a place (Brooke Army Medical Center) where you are not just another Soldier, you are treated like family."



Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Layton, Brooke Army Medical Center command sergeant major, visits with Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, in the burn center prior to the group's deployment to Iraq.

The 4th Infantry Division began its second deployment to Iraq in November. The first deployment in 2003 resulted in the successful capture of former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

Housing differential rules change for single service members

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — About 30,000 single service members who live off post and pay child support are likely to see a slight change in their military pay — an increase for some and cut for others — beginning this month.

The rules regarding the basic allowance

for housing differential — an allotment for single members who pay child support — changed as of Saturday, said Tim Fowlkes, the Pentagon's assistant director of military compensation.

The change is one of the last parts of a seven-year phase-in of the basic allowance for housing that began in 1998, he explained. The BAH system replaced the old variable housing allowance system.

Under both the old law and the transition policies that have been in effect to implement BAH, single members who pay child support get a BAH differential. However, now only members who live in government quarters and pay child support will continue to receive the BAH differential, Fowlkes said.

Members who live off base and pay child support will receive BAH at the

"with dependents" rate. Previously, they received BAH at the "without dependents" rate, plus the BAH differential.

This "with dependents" BAH rate varies widely based on pay grade and location, Fowlkes said, so some affected service members will notice a slight increase in their pay and some, a slight decrease. Those living in low-cost housing markets are the most likely to notice a dip, he said.

Family housing updates homes, retains sense of history

Fort Sam Houston is renowned for its historic character with more than 386 houses located in the National Historic Landmark District or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Fort Sam Houston Family Housing, Limited Partnership Development division's development strategy is to build on the historic character of the residential villages on Fort Sam Houston and provide safe, functional and attractive housing for families. In historic villages, the focus will be on the maintenance and replacement of exterior materials without changing the historic character of the homes. Many of the historic homes lack current amenities such as larger kitchens, family rooms, large closets and updated bathrooms.

FSHFH, LP Development will modify the interiors of some homes to create larger rooms, more storage spaces, amenities and new finishes. The goal is to deliver the highest quality of housing and community environment that meets or exceeds the Army's requirement and the needs of the families throughout the post.

Major renovations include significant structural, mechanical, safety and livability improvements to existing homes. Historic major renovations consist of interior and exterior remodeling to increase functionality and extend the useful life of the houses. The floor plans of some of the homes will be reconfigured to enhance the home's layout and to provide amenities comparable to those in newer housing. Structural defects, roofing repairs, detached garages and porch replacements are also a part of major renovations.

A minor renovation project may include kitchen and bathroom upgrades, exterior painting, re-grading and landscaping and other repairs.

Based on the scope, renovations should be completed in 60 to 90 days, and will take place during vacancies to minimize

inconvenience and reduce intrapost moves over the next five years.

Over the next several months, each of the nine villages will be featured in a series of articles in the Fort Sam Houston News Leader. Each article will include the condition of the home when FSHFH, LP Development started renovation and what is being done to the homes to meet the needs of today's families.

(Source: Residential Communities Initiative)

President-

Continued from Page 1

stand that by helping promote democracy in the Middle East, they are laying the foundation for peace in the region, he said.

Bush thanked the hospital staff and the wounded troops and their family members for bringing "great credit to our country" and promised to continue work in 2006 to promote and lay the foundation for peace around the world. He promised to ensure that the sacrifices of those wounded or killed in the war on terror wouldn't be in vain.

The president vowed to continue using every power in his legal authority to protect the American people from terrorists.

"They attacked us before, and they will attack us again if they can," he said. "We are at war with a bunch of cold-blooded killers who will kill at a moment's notice, and I have a responsibility to act within the law, which is what I am doing."

At the hospital, Bush met with patients and their families at the Amputee Care Center that opened in January 2005, said Phil Reidinger, the post's public affairs officer.

From there, he visited the Burn Center, which has treated 388 service members wounded in the war on terror, and the intensive care unit. The presi-

dent presented Purple Hearts to nine Soldiers: Sgt. 1st Class Larry Campbell; Staff Sgts. Christopher Edwards and Ellis Majetich; Sgt. Lee Tom Jones; Cpl. Andrew Powers; and Spcs. Chad Danusis, David Dyer, Robert Leonard and Jean Pijeau, Reidinger said.

The visit was the president's first to BAMC, which offers the Defense Department's only burn center and one of just two amputee centers and has treated more than 2,300 wounded troops since October 2001. Of those troops, 1,600 were wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom; 67 in Operational Northern Delay, in which military forces parachuted into Iraq; and 676 in Operation Enduring Freedom, Reidinger said.

The visit topped off a full slate of holiday activities at BAMC, he said.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio hosted a Christmas dinner Dec. 25 for 120 wounded Soldiers and Marines and their families at the post's Soldier and Family Assistance Center. The San Antonio community donated gifts for the troops.

On Dec. 22, two members of the New Orleans Saints football franchise spent more than two hours at the center, signing autographs and posing for photos with wounded troops and their families, Reidinger said.



Photo by Michael Dulevitz

President George W. Bush thanks Col. Lark Ford, deputy commander for nursing at Brooke Army Medical Center, during the president's New Year's visit to BAMC. During his visit, Bush met with 51 Soldiers and Marines, most of them injured in Iraq, and thanked the BAMC staff for bringing "great credit to our country."

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Payday loans cost more than they're worth

By Timothy J. Haight Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office

People who are thinking about taking out a payday loan should think again.

Payday lenders prey on vulnerable borrowers, luring them in with the promise of lower interest rates as compared to a credit card, which can have up to a 20 percent interest rate. With payday loans, the interest rates appear low — just a minimal fee for the loan, a small fee for processing the loan and a slight surcharge.

So, someone may borrow \$200, pay \$30 in fees, and walk away with \$170. Then, when the next week rolls around, the borrower owes \$170, which the lender offers to roll into a new loan for a small extension fee, slight processing fee and minimal fee for the loan, which is another \$30. The second \$30 fee is to avoid paying the original \$170 back. So, for a \$200 loan, a borrower may pay \$60 in fees. This happens everyday and many people get caught in a vicious cycle of fees and debt.

Lenders target military

There are more payday lenders within three miles of military installations than in other parts of communities. Military personnel are prime targets for payday lenders because they are paid regularly, never get laid off and face penalties for failing to repay debts.

According to an article by the Center for Responsible Lending, active duty military personnel are about three times as likely to take out a payday loan as compared to the civilian population.

Additionally, about one of every five active duty military personnel borrowed money from a payday lender last year.

However, payday lending costs military members and their families more than \$80 million in fees along with annual percentage rates reaching over 700 percent in some cases.

Stopping cycle of debt

Payday lending has increased substantially over the last decade. Changes in banking laws have created loopholes in regulatory control over lenders and left a huge back door open for predatory lenders.

State and federal leaders have seen the destruction the payday lending cycle of debt can have on military families and communities and have begun to act. Last spring, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 1479, which took effect in September. This bill holds payday lenders doing business with members of the military and their families to a higher standard. Lenders are prohibited from:

- Garnishment of military wages;
- Conducting any collection activity against a military customer or their spouse when the military customer is in combat deployment; and
- Contacting a commanding officer in an effort to collect.

Moreover, lenders are bound by the terms of any repayment agreement they negotiate through military or third party credit counselors, and agree to honor any statement by a military base commander that a specific payday lending location is off limits to military personnel. Finally, the bill also provides for certain disclosures that must be made by a payday lender to military customers.

Recently, federal legislators have worked to curb abusive payday lending to the military community. Senator Elizabeth Dole's amendment, which passed on Dec. 22, 2005, will require a Department of Defense abusive lending study with recommendations to combat predatory lending. The study is due within 90 days to Congress.

Avenues of assistance

To avoid the financial problems that can cause a visit to a payday lender, people should be proactive. See a financial counselor at Army Community Service, determine what bills need to be paid first and foremost, develop a budget and stick to it.

The Commanders' Referral program is a tool to help people overcome a financial emergency. Although traditional financial relief from Army Emergency Relief is still available, under the Commanders' Referral program, Soldiers can go directly to their commander or first sergeant and request financial assistance. Soldiers can receive up to \$1,000 as an interest-free loan that must be repaid within 12 months. Financial assistance through the program is regulated by guidelines to screen out the "wants" versus the "needs" of Soldiers and their families.

Some of the typical problems the Commanders' Referral program can address are funeral expenses, rent, emergency travel, medical bills, nonreceipt of pay, utilities, fires and other disasters, food and certain expenses related to an essential personally owned vehicle.

If people do not qualify for the Commanders' Referral program or similar relief, they should still reconsider the payday lender option. Although someone could have a \$1,000 in their pocket quickly, paying fees and other administrative costs will quickly add up, especially if there is a true emergency before the payday loan is paid off.

For more information, call Timothy Haight at 221-2282.

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Families hail AAFES' program to help injured troops

DALLAS – When military service members are injured in Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom, that trauma is made all the more difficult by an arduous transition process from the battlefield. Troops are often flown immediately to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany with little more than the clothes on their backs and identification around their necks. From there, wounded troops recuperate at U.S. medical centers and begin reintegration into civilian life.

Walter Gardiner understands the challenges injured troops evacuated from a war zone face first hand. His son, Sgt.

Ryan Gardiner, was medically evacuated from Baghdad after sustaining injuries in the Global War on Terrorism.

When Sgt. Gardiner reached the hospital in Germany, he had nothing to his name until an Army and Air Force Exchange Service personal shopper arrived on the scene. Armed with underwear, socks and a change of clothes, the civilian associate brought more than products, he delivered comfort to a Soldier in need.

"When someone else cares about my son's needs as much as his mom and dad do, it brings a sense of belonging to a special family," said Gardiner. AAFES associates Shane Warren and Charlotte Stobie are personal shoppers who visit with troops, make a list, then go to the Exchange and select the items. They return to the hospital and hand deliver items to injured troops.

"It is an honor to help these young men," Warren said. "I was once wounded and brought to Landstuhl so I know what it means to have a friendly face at a time when you are alone and frightened. You feel the hurt when they get to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Our job is to make them feel better. We are here for the people who fight to protect us."

The patients come from all services. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are assisted by AAFES staff. More than 6,000 injured troops have been helped by the AAFES personal shopper program in the last 10 months alone.

Section 1319 of Public Law 1559 allows AAFES to allocate \$250 toward the purchase of civilian clothing to qualifying service members who arrive at several military hospitals. To qualify for the allotment, service members must be medically evacuated from Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

(Source: AAFES)

Prepaid phone cards keep families connected

DALLAS – Petty Officer 2nd Class Miller Shield and his family got lucky this year. His rest and recuperating occurred in late November, just in time for Thanksgiving. "We had a great time," said his mother Deborah Carmon-Coleman. Just before he boarded a plane back to the Middle East in December, Carmon-Coleman gave her son two Military Exchange prepaid phone cards for him to call home.

"Thanksgiving was great, but I knew Christmas would be tough," said Carmon-Coleman. "With both my son and my daughter-in-law deployed, we needed the most cost effective way for us to stay in touch."

As an employee of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service,

Shield's mother is "authorized" to shop in the same military exchanges he shops. The "PX/BX" is where Carmon-Coleman purchased the phone cards that will provide her son with more than four hours of phone calls between Bahrain and the United States.

Until the Department of Defense authorized exchanges to sell Military Exchange global prepaid phone cards to "non-authorized" exchange customers in April 2004, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and neighbors were often forced to purchase phone cards designed for calls within the "Continental United States" because family members who do not work for the military (like Carmon-

Coleman) or aren't married to an active-duty or retired military member are considered "non-dependent" family members who do not qualify as "authorized" exchange customers.

Now any American can "Help Our Troops Call Home" by sending Military Exchange global prepaid phone cards to deployed service members through www.aafes.org or (800) 527-2345.

These phone cards deliver an instant morale boost with up to four and a half hours of talk time for calls placed from any overseas military installation worldwide to include 70 AAFES call centers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan or Kuwait.

"I just worry about parents who are unaware of their abili-

ty to purchase these cards," said Carmon-Coleman. "Most phone cards are designed for calls between Boston and Philadelphia, not Baghdad to Poughkeepsie. Fortunately, when it comes to sending military exchange phone cards we are now all considered 'authorized."

Designed on a "global platform" for the specific needs of deployed troops, Military Exchange global prepaid phone cards' minutes never expire and no additional charges or connection fees are ever added to rates as low as .19 cents a minute to call home from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Carmon-Coleman and her son were not the only ones on the phone before the New Year. In fact, troops deployed in support of OIF and OEF logged more than 15 million minutes in calls last December. This year, AAFES estimates troops in contingency locations will have spent more than 20 million minutes on the phone in December alone.

Military Exchange global prepaid phone cards can be sent to individual Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors or Marines designated by the purchaser or distributed to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House, United Service Organizations, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Operation Homefront or Operation Interdependence®.

(Source: AAFES)

Camp Bullis buck returns home

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The antlers from the legendary Camp Bullis buck returned to the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort Sam Houston Dec. 19 after a year with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

For hunters, the story of the Camp Bullis buck is one of envy, intrigue and awe.

As of January 2005, the Bullis buck was the third largest native whitetail ever taken in Texas and the largest wild whitetail deer killed in the state of Texas in more than 100 years. The famous buck had a set of antlers with a Boone and Crockett Club standard of 265 one-eighth racks, a figure based on antler circumferences and point lengths.

The minimum score for entry into Boone and Crockett's record book for typical white-tailed bucks is an antler score of 170.

On Nov. 6, 2004, the deer was humanely destroyed by Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation personnel after it was discovered suffering and in a near-death condition by Soldiers training on the reservation, according to Les Walters, Chief Community Recreation Division of DMWR.

The antlers of the Bullis buck were retained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while the circumstances surrounding the death of the deer were thoroughly investigated.

No fault was found during the investi-



(From left) Gary L. Young, resident agent in charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Forrest Laughlin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Operation Game Thief; and Paul Matthews, director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, sign the Memorandum of Agreement Dec. 19 for the Camp Bullis buck antlers shown in the foreground.

gation and Dec. 19, 2005, Gary Young, resident agent in charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, transferred the antlers to Paul Matthews, director, MWR.

Then, in accordance with a previously signed agreement, Matthews loaned the antlers to Forrest Laughlin of Texas Parks and Wildlife Operation Game Thief for the purpose of having the antlers replicated.

"Replicas will be made by a specialist in Indiana," Laughlin said.

"He is the best in the country," said Laughlin. "I plan to stay with the antlers until the job is completed." The taxidermist will make 30 replicas of the antlers, with one going to OGT and two to DMWR. The remaining replicas will be for sale to the public.

Once the replicas are produced, OGT will return the original antlers to DMWR. The Camp Bullis buck antlers will be put on public display at an as yet undetermined location.

Proceeds from the sale of the antler replicas will be divided 50/50, between OGT and DMWR. DMWR proceeds will benefit the Soldier and Family Assistance Center and other MWR programs.

SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

Intramural Sports

Softball tryouts

Post softball tryouts for men and women are from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. (rain dates are Feb. 7 to 11). Men practice at Leadership Field, and women practice at Lady Leadership Field. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Intramural billiards

Coaches meeting is Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Jan. 19. For more information, call 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@us.army.mil.

Intramural pingpong

Coaches meeting is Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season starts Jan. 17. For more information, call 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@us.army.mil.

Spring soccer

Register online for the Alamo Heights Fort Sam Houston spring soccer season. Children born between Aug. 1, 1986, and July 31, 2001, are eligible to play. Register at www.ahfsh.com, click on "Here is the registration page" link. People can make registration payments as well as sign up for vehicle passes on the Web site. There will also be a walk-in registration Saturday and Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Jan. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Youth Services, Building 1630, off Winans Road, at Fort Sam Houston. Registration closes Jan. 31. For more information, visit http://www.ahfsh.org.

National Blood Donor Month

Blood shortage critical during winter months

Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult month for blood centers to collect blood donations. A reduction in turnout can put the nation's blood inventory at a critical low.

Every day in this country, about 38,000 units of blood are required in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities for patients with cancer and other diseases, for organ transplant recipients and to help save the lives of accident victims. The goal is to help ensure that blood is available to patients whenever and wherever it is needed because it is the blood on the shelves that helps saves lives.

The American Association of Blood Banks estimates that 8 million volunteers donate blood each year. According to the National Blood Data Resource Center, about 15 million units of whole blood and red blood cells were donated in the United States in 2001, with nearly 29 million units of blood components transfused. And, with an aging population and advances in medical treatments and procedures requiring blood transfusions, the demand for blood continues to increase.

Fewer than 5 percent of healthy Americans eligible to donate blood actually donate each year. According to studies, the average donor is a college-educated white male between the ages of 30 and 50 who is married and has an above-average income. However, a broad cross-section of the population donates every day. Furthermore, these "average" statistics are changing, and women and minority groups are volunteering in increasing

numbers to donate.

People 69 years and older account for approximately 10 percent of the population, but they require 50 percent of all whole blood and red blood cells transfused, according to NBDRC. Using current screening and donation procedures, a growing number of blood banks have found blood donation by seniors to be safe and practical.

To be eligible to donate blood, a person must be in good health and generally must be at least 17 years of age (although some states permit younger people, with parental consent, to donate). Minimum weight requirements may vary among facilities, but generally, donors must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Volunteer donors provide nearly all blood used for transfusion in the United States. The donor's body replenishes the fluid lost from donation in 24 hours. It may take up to two months to replace the lost red blood cells. Whole blood can be donated once every eight weeks. Two units of red blood cells can be donated at one time, using a process known as red cell apheresis. This type of donation can be made every 16 weeks.

• Anyone who has ever used intravenous drugs (illegal IV drugs);

Who should not donate:

- Men who have had sexual contact with other men since 1977;
- Anyone who has ever received clotting factor concentrates;
- Anyone with a positive test for HIV (AIDS virus);
- Men and women who have engaged in sex for money or drugs since 1977;
- Anyone who has had hepatitis since his or her 11th birthday;
 Anyone who has had babesiosis

or Chagas disease;

- Anyone who has taken Tegison for psoriasis;
- Anyone who has risk factors for Crueutzfeldt-Jakob disease or who has an immediate family member with CJD;
- Anyone who has risk factors for CJD;
- Anyone who spent three months or more in the United Kingdom from 1980 through 1996; and
- Anyone who has spent five years in Europe from 1980 to the present.

(Source: AABB)

The Brooke Army Medical Center Blood Bank is reaching out for support to accomplish a mission for life. To donate blood, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.

Statistics show alcohol, motorcycle riding do not mix

By Maj. Marilyn Lazarz 415th Civil Affairs Battalion

Kalamazoo, MICH. — Riding a motorcycle takes reaction time, coordination, balance and, most importantly, good judgment.

Alcohol robs people of the ability to drive safely and think clearly even after just one drink. Alcohol slows reaction time and interferes with coordination, making it difficult to complete a sharp turn or a sudden stop. It also distorts balance, which is why it is frequently used to test sobriety, and affects judgment decisions about whether or not to pass a vehicle.

Too many people still do not understand that alcohol and riding a motorcycle don't mix. Alcohol is absorbed very rapidly into the bloodstream. A 12-ounce beer is just as intoxicating as a one-ounce shot of whiskey or a five-ounce glass of wine.

The number of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes has increased by 38 percent from 2,971 in 2000 to 4,095 in 2004, whereas the number of impaired motor-

cycle operators has increased by 18 percent, from 944 in 2000 to 1,117 in 2004. In 2004, a higher percent of motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had

blood alcohol concentrations of 0.08 grams per deciliter or higher than any other type of motor vehicle. The five states that had higher proportion of impaired motorcycle operators than the national average in 2004 are Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Arizona, according to the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration.

The follow motorcycle riding safety tips are recommended:

Be responsible and don't drink and ride.
 Judgment is affected when drinking and people's ability to say no becomes weaker.

• If drinking, choose

a designated driver, take a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive home.

• Arrange to spend the night where the activity is being held.

Riding a motorcycle while impaired is not worth the consequences. Not only do people risk their own life, but also can risk another person's life. Violators face jail time, the loss of their driver's licenses, increased insurance rates and possible criminal charges. As the National Crackdown comprehensive impaired driving prevention campaign states, "You drink and drive, you lose."

For more information, call the Army Substance Abuse Program at 221-0133. For more information about the National Crackdown campaign, visit http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org/.

RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS ...

Chapel youth group

The Fort Sam Houston chapel youth group meets Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. The group is open to seventh through 12th graders, and is sponsored by the chapel congregations. The theme, "Where Faith and Life Meet," is incorporated in fun activities, Bible applications and off-post events. Adults are invited to help and join in the fun. For more information, call Joanne Benson at 599-0157.

Officers' Christian Fellowship

The Officers' Christian Fellowship meets on the first and third Sunday of every month at 1008 Gorgas Circle, near the old Brooke Army Medical Center building. Study is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and includes a home-cooked meal. Participants are studying "The Minor Prophets." For more information, call Lt. Col. Robert Griffith at 226-1295 or 221-8857 or e-mail rgriffith3@satx.rr.com or robert.griffith1@amedd.army.mil.

Interfaith Calendar . . .

January

 $\label{eq:continuous} \textbf{Today - Twelfth Night} - \textbf{Christian observance of the close of Christmastide}.$

Friday - Epiphany – Christian commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ. The homage of the magi to the infant Jesus is honored by some. For others, the Baptism of Jesus is the remembered event.

Friday - Feast of the Theophany – Orthodox Christian feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord.

Sunday - Baptism of the Lord Jesus – Christian commemoration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

Sunday - Waqf al Arafa – Islamic observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy.

Sunday through Jan. 11 - Hajj – Islamic pilgrimage rites at Mecca on seventh to 12th days of month of Dhu al-Hajja, concluding with Eid al Adha when those not traveling to Mecca take part.

Tuesday through Jan. 13 - Eid al Adha – Islamic day to remember Abraham and the almost sacrifice of Isaac. Meat is given to the poor.

For the chapel services schedule, visit www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Weekly Campus Activities Monday to Jan. 14

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

G.A.T.E. nominations all week

Wednesday

Early dismissal – kindergarten through fourth grade, 2 p.m.

Early dismissal – fifth and sixth grade, 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 12

Exemplary performing at Roadrunner for Martin Luther King ceremony, 10:30 a.m. **Jan. 13**

Spirit day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday

Boys' basketball vs. Ingram at Cole in Moseley Gym, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Girls' basketball vs. Comfort at Cole in Moseley Gym, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

One act play auditions in Room 500, 3:45 to 5 p.m.

Jan. 13

Girls' basketball at Johnson City, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball at Johnson City, 5 and 8 p.m. Dual swim meet at San Antonio Independent School District Natatorium, 5 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Cole juniors, seniors vie for Powder Puff win

Story and photo by retired Lt. Col. Robert Hoffmann Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

The annual Powder Puff football game between the junior and senior classes at Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School was played the week before students left for winter break.

Before a crowd of parents, graduates and most of the student body, the junior ladies jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead on touchdown runs by Whitney Miller. Spearheaded by a now-focused defense and touchdown runs by seniors Amy Rarig and Alishia Saddler, the score was tied 14-14 at halftime.

Coming out of the break, the seniors grabbed the lead on the first possession on another long touchdown run by Saddler. Subsequently, both teams drove deep into each other's territory, with the juniors holding on a goalline stand, only to see the seniors return the favor twice.

With less than a minute left in the game, a dropped senior handoff gave the juniors possession of the ball at the senior 10-yard line. With just enough time for two plays, superb touchdown saving stops by Meghan

Rinehart and Brittany Fryson halted the junior drive at the three-yard line and gave the seniors a hard fought 21-14 victory.

With the win, the class of 2006 leaves Cole with a perfect 2-0 Powder Puff record, having defeated the class of 2005 35-21 in last year's game.



Cole High School junior Brittany Maas zeroes in on ball-carrier senior Alisha Saddler during the annual Powder Puff football game between the female juniors and seniors at Cougar Stadium. The senior class prevailed 21-14.

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District invites parents and community members to a

Public Hearing

Jan. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Center, 1902 Winans Road, Building 1908, for the purpose of discussing the 2006-2007 school year calendar.

FSHISD is considering requesting a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to begin school on Aug. 14, 2006, in lieu of Aug. 21, 2006, as required by TEC §25.0811.

Special board meeting

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday at 12 p.m. in the Fort Sam Houston ISD Administrative Office Conference Room, 1902 Winans Road, to conduct the superintendent's evaluation.

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Basketball registration

Basketball registration is ongoing. Players and coaches are needed. For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 221-5513.

Youth baseball registration

Registration for youth baseball will be Jan. 30 through Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797. Registration will be on site at Youth Services from Feb. 27 through March 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. To register, parents must pay a \$45 activity baseball fee and bring updated immunizations for fifth graders and below, sports physical and a current leave and earnings statement. All participants must have a current Child and Youth Services membership. CYS membership is \$18 per child or \$40 for a family of three or more registering participants.

Youth Services volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs such as golf, roller hockey, tennis, computers and arts and crafts. Volunteers with typing or filing skills are needed for the administrative office. Parents and teens can also volunteer to help in the concession stands Saturdays during football season. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Free after-school program

Youth Services offers a free after-school program for sixth to 10th graders Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from the school (either the elementary or the high school). At the Youth Center, they will have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects at the 4-H club, photography club and the computer tech club. Youth must be registered with Child and

Youth Services. The annual fee is \$18, but there is no cost for the program. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4871.

Cooking classes

The Youth Center offers cooking classes Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 221-3502.

Parent Advisory Council meeting

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council meeting will be Jan. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Lunch will be provided. A representative from Community Health will speak on colds and flu. All CYS patrons are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet staff, learn of upcoming events and attend parent education opportunities.

Family Child Care Online

Family Child Care Online is a marketing tool that allows parents to take a virtual tour of FCC homes. In addition, parents can read about the provider's philosophy of care, hours of operation and background. This online tool can be accessed through the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office, Building 2797, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Youth Services registration

Youth Services registration will be Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797, Stanley Road. To register, parents need to bring current shot records, name and telephone number of two local emergency contacts, physical exam or well baby check completed within the last 12 months with physician's signature affixed, child's Social Security number and proof of total family income such as a current leave and earnings statement or pay stub.



Photo by Magealena Sloan

High-profile performance

The AllStar Cheerleaders were invited to perform during the North American Junior Independent Football Federation game prior to the featured match between the New Orleans Saints vs. the Detroit Lions Dec. 24 at the Alamodome. The cheerleading team performed before the game and during the halftime ceremonies. The AllStar cheerleading team comprises members from the cheerleading squads of the Fort Sam Houston and Brackenridge NAJIFF teams.

There is an \$18 annual registration fee per child, maximum \$40 per family of three or more registering participants. For more information, call Roxanne Lacy at 221-4871 or Arlene Alvarez at 221-1723.

Part-day preschool program

Patrons interested in the part-day preschool program at the Child Development Center can call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723. Preschool is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are based on total family income.

Home-based child care

Family Child Care offers home-based child care for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. FCC offers full-day, part-day, before- and after-

school care, hourly care, extended hourly care and long-term care. For referral information or child registration, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

FCC providers

Family Child Care is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers. There is a no-cost start-up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

CDC waiting list

To remain on the waiting list for the Child Development Center, parents are advised to check their status every 90 days. To check status, call the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office at 221-1723 or 221-4871.

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Post Pulse: What was your New Year's resolution?



"To enjoy more time with $my\ family."$ Michael Lopez, Army and Air Force Exchange Service employee



"To be more of a family person and cherish the months left before going to college."

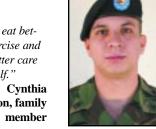
Robert Dillard, Cole **High School** senior



"To manage my bonus money better." Pvt. Robert Achterberg, 217th Heavy Transportation Company



"To eat better, exercise and take better care of myself." Cynthia Pinson, family



"To quit smoking and save money." Staff Sgt. Mirko Maravi, U.S. Army Garrison

RECREATION AND FITNESS

Rampage hockey

Military appreciation night

Join the San Antonio Rampage hockey team as they recognize military members throughout San



Antonio and the United States.

A special military appreciation night will be Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the SBC Center. Tickets for all Department of Defense ID cardholders are discounted to \$10 per person and include one lower level game ticket, hot dog, soda, chips and a chance to win a special military design Rampage jersey. Ticket order forms are available at the Bowling Center, Army Community Service, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and other MWR facilities. Ticket orders are due by Jan. 17. For more information, call 444-5707. Jerseys worn by the players will be auctioned at the end of the game. Proceeds benefit Fort Sam Houston Soldier and Family Assistance Center, San Antonio Fisher Houses, American Red Cross and the Lackland Air Force Base Family Support Center.

New Year's fitness

Start the New Year off right with a resolution to get fit and stay fit. Stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center to participate in one of the heart-pounding aerobics classes such as kick-boxing, karate, cardio step, body sculpture, seniors' fitness, super abs, stretching and cycling. For more information, call 221-2020.

Intramural sports

People interested in a team sport should consider joining an intramural/varsity sports league. Participation in intramural sports enhances individual morale and unit esprit de corps, promotes teamwork and encourages individuals to reach high levels of physical fitness. For more information or to join, call 221-1180.

3-D archery at Camp Bullis

The next archery shoot is Jan. 28 and 29. Check-in is from 8 to 10 a.m. This competitive shoot includes 30 3-D animal targets placed at unknown distances ranging from 10 to 40 yards in woodland settings. Awards are given to the top three in each class. The cost is \$15 per person. Minis and cubs shoot free with a paid adult, and a playground is available for younger children. For more information, call the Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Office at 295-7577.

Auto Craft Shop

Get your car winter ready with a free winterization check at the Auto Craft Shop. Check includes anti-freeze levels, inspection of all belts and examination of the engine. For more information, call 221-3962.

Cycling class

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers free cycling classes Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon and Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.

Dining and Entertainment

Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

Newcomers' Extravaganza

The Newcomers' Extravaganza has been relocated to the Sam Houston Club. The next event is Jan. 31 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. This event is mandatory for all permanent party military

members E-1 through O-6 within 60 days of arrival to Fort Sam Houston. Everyone who attends the extravaganza will receive a voucher for a \$4.95 lunch at the Sam Houston Club following the event. For more information, call Alicia Tyson at 221-2705 or 221-2418.

Sunday brunch

The Sam Houston Club will have a brunch Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that includes pastries, omelets and breakfast meats. Adult meal served with complimentary champagne. The cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for nonmembers, \$6.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children 5 and under. For reservations, call 224-2721.

Lunch buffet

The Sam Houston Club features an "All You Can Eat" lunch buffet, which includes beverage, deluxe salad bar, soup and dessert Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5.95 for members and \$6.95 for nonmembers. **Bingo**

Play bingo every Thursday and Friday; doors open at 5 p.m., and Saturday, doors open at 11 a.m. Youth 10 and older may play when accompanied by an adult. There is a free buffet for all bingo players.

Bowling Center, 221-3683

Bowl-A-Jam



Bowl-A-Jam is Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person, which includes shoes and one order of fries per lane. Stop by for music and fun. For more information, call 221-3683.

Golf Club, 221-4388

January special on golf lessons

Get 10 lessons for only \$150. Open to men and women of any level of experience. To register, call 355-5429.

Pro Shop Sale

Wilson drivers on sale, were \$237, now \$137. Wilson Fairway Woods on sale, were \$162, now \$95. Golf balls discounted. Call 222-9386.



Around the Corner Frame Shop

Fort Sam Houston "Cat's Meow Collection" mementos are on sale. The mementos are small plaques in the shape of six buildings on post that include the old and new Brooke Army Medical Center, former Officers' Club, Quadrangle clock tower, gift chapel and the Army Medical Department Center and School. Each piece has a small black cat on it. The frame shop is the exclusive dealer for these pieces. For more information, call 221-9013.

Vera's Barbershop

Vera's Barbershop is located at 407 Dickman Road (former Officers' Club), and specializes in military cuts.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Black Coffee," a mystery by Agatha Christie, is on stage from Jan. 11 to Feb. 18. Prices are \$26.95 Fridays and Saturdays and \$23.95 Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military. Doors open for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

MWR Ticket Office at Sam Houston Club

Discounted tickets for the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo are on sale. The Rodeo runs Feb. 3 to 19. Also, Disney and Universal Studios season passes are on sale. Tickets for Laser Quest in San Antonio are \$6.50 and a family fun pack for five is \$32.50. For more information, call the ticket office at 226-1663.

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Guard troops battle Texas wildfires

By Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada Texas National Guard Public Affairs

CAMP MABRY, Texas — What started with a statewide disaster declaration by Texas Governor Rick Perry last week, has resulted in aviation and engineer support from the National Guard to help extinguish a number of wildfires.

Perry ordered the deployment of state firefighting assets and issued a statewide disaster declaration Dec. 27. The Texas National Guard deployed two UH-60 Black Hawks from the Austin Army Aviation Support Facility and two CH-47 Chinooks from the Dallas AASF in Grand Prairie.

The Louisiana National Guard sent three UH-60 Black Hawks with 18 crew members. The helicopters were readied to join firefighters in suppressing and containing numerous wildfires in areas the governor described as "tinderboxes."

On Dec. 28, two of the Texas Black Hawks dropped 47 990-gallon buckets of water to support firefighters on the ground in southeast Travis County.

On Saturday, the Department of Emergency Management requested four bulldozers and tractor trailers from the Engineer Brigade to assist in Abilene, Texas. Nineteen Army Guard and two Air Guard personnel were deployed. One refueler was requested Sunday to support personnel in the Abilene area. The armory in Stephenville, Texas, was designated as an operating base.

Four Black Hawks assisted firefighters in Eastland County, and two Chinooks with the larger, 2,000-gallon buckets supported firefighters in Carbon Eastland County Sunday. The aircraft flew a total of 7.5 hours and dropped a total of 17 buckets until nightfall.

Aerial support continued Monday with three Black Hawks and two Chinooks flying in support of ground personnel.

Quick response from Louisiana was the result of the Emergency Management Assistance Council "Immediate Response" agreement, signed by governors across the country, officials said. Even with 80,000 Army and Air National Guard members deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, the skills and flexibility of Guard members have proven to be invaluable in any emergency situation related to their homeland defense and homeland security missions, state officials said.

Burn bans are in effect throughout Texas and Oklahoma, and the United States Forest Service is asking the public to be vigilant and report fires even when they think they are minor.



Texas Forest Service photo

A Texas Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft carries a "Bambi bucket" to dump water on a targeted hotspot to stop a wildfire from spreading.

New device senses through concrete walls

Story and photo by Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Troops conducting urban operations soon will have the capabilities of superheroes, being able to sense through 12 inches of concrete to determine if someone is inside a building.

The new "Radar Scope" will give warfighters searching a building the ability to tell within seconds if someone is in the next room, said Edward Baranoski from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Special Projects Office.

By simply holding the portable, handheld device up to a wall, users will be able to detect movements as small as breathing, he said.

The Radar Scope, developed by DARPA, is expected to be fielded to troops in Iraq as soon as this spring, Baranoski said. The device is likely to be

fielded to the squad level, for use by troops going door to door in search of terrorists.

The Radar Scope will give warfighters the capability to sense through a foot of concrete and 50 feet beyond that into a room, Baranoski explained.

It will bring to the fight what larger, commercially available motion detectors couldn't, he said. Weighing just a pound and a half, the Radar Scope will be about the size of a telephone handset and cost about \$1,000, making it light enough for a Soldier to carry and inexpensive enough to be fielded widely.

The Radar Scope will be waterproof and rugged, and will run on AA batteries, he said.

"It may not change how four-man stacks go into a room (during clearing operations)," Baranoski said. "But as they go into a building, it can help them prioritize what rooms they go into. It will give them an extra degree of knowledge so they know if someone is inside."

Even as the organization hurries to get the devices to combat forces, DARPA already is laying groundwork for bigger plans that build on this technology.

Proposals are expected this week for the new "Visi Building" technology that's more than a motion detector. It will actually "see" through multiple walls, penetrating entire buildings to show floor plans, locations of occupants and placement of materials such as weapons caches, Baranoski said.

"It will give (troops) a lot of opportunity to stake out buildings and really see inside," he said. "It will go a long way in extending their surveillance capabilities."

The device is expected to take several years to develop. Ultimately, service members will be able to use it simply by driving or flying by the structure under surveillance, Baranoski said.



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency expects the portable Radar Scope to look similar to this model and to be fielded as soon as this spring to help patrols conducting urban operations to sense if someone is inside a building.

'Civilians with attitude' can shape Army with survey

By Murray Mack Office of the Army's Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel

"The Secretary of the Army will see you now ..."
Few people have heard these words, but many may wish at times they could march into the secretary's office and say what is on their mind.

Well, now people have that opportunity. The Army civilian attitude survey is open to Army civilian employees, supervisors and managers.

More than 230,000 Army civilians are being asked to provide input on major issues of the day. So far, several thousand civilians have already submitted their opinions.

The survey asks hard-hitting questions about leadership and management, performance culture, morale, retention, training and development, fairness and other hot-button topics.

The survey collects civilian attitudes and opinions following the latest round of Base Realignment and Closure decisions, and just prior to the implementation of DoD's new civilian personnel system, the National Security Personnel System.

"I have to admit this year's survey is pretty darn controversial because of BRAC and NSPS," said Rickie Cannon, director of the Army's Civilian Personnel Evaluation Agency that coordinates the survey. The results of this survey provide baseline attitudes and opinions that are used as the starting point to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs.

Past surveys indicate that senior Army leaders, both civilian and military, look forward to reviewing the results. The results are used locally to change management.

The secretary of the Army is provided the overall Army results, and the survey results are reported back to the commands, installations and activities that produced them. Employees looking for survey feedback will receive it, Cannon said, adding there are absolutely no

secrets.

Throughout the years, the Army survey has measured job satisfaction, customer input about products and services, and much more. For example, about 65 percent of employees say their jobs are challenging and make good use of their skills and abilities. However, when asked whether they would recommend their organization as a place to work to others, results are much lower.

Early feedback indicates that the questions are relevant for today's issues.

"It's a big Army and we need a lot more civilians to get involved. That's a challenge to the workforce," Cannon said.

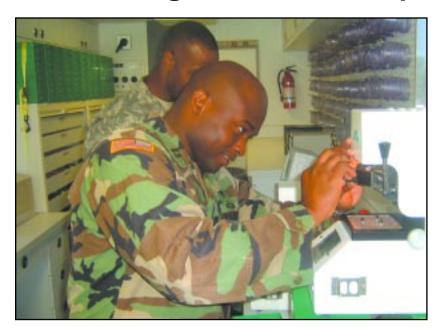
The survey is voluntary and strictly confidential. Employees can take it during normal duty hours at work since the survey is considered official business.

The survey is available online until Jan. 31 at http://cpol.army.mil/survey/dasurvey.

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Behind the scenes

Medical logistics courses prepare Soldiers for in-theater support



Capt. Tellis Carr, from the 70K Health Services Materiel Officer Course, designs prescription glasses during an optical exercise. The 70K course is an intense, 10-week training in medical logistics for junior Army Medical Department officers, warrant officers, international officers and Department of the Army civilians. Training includes hands-on exercises, warehouse and distribution tours and a comprehensive logistics research project.



Courtesy photos



(Above) First Lt. Karyn Vondrachek makes prescription glasses during an optical exercise as part of the 70K Health Services Materiel Officer Course. Optical fabrication is one of the four pillars of medical logistics. Others include medical supply, blood distribution and medical maintenance. The 70K course also covers procurement, stock control, property book management, storage and quality control procedures. The Logistics Management Branch conducts three active duty officer and two reserve officer courses annually, training about 100 to 120 students a year.

(Left) Students from the 91J Medical Logistics Specialist Course receive navigation training during a field training exercise at Camp Bullis. The five-week 91J course provides enlisted Soldiers formal training in medical materiel procedures and includes several hands-on practical exercises. "When our students leave this course (91J and 70K Health Services Materiel Officer Course), they are definitely better prepared to accomplish logistics in regards to combat service support," said Lt. Col. Marsha Langlois, Logistics Management Branch chief.



Students from the 70K Health Services Materiel Officer Course perform generator training at Camp Bullis. "The 70K and 91J (enlisted) tracks provide a great foundation for what can be ... rewarding career paths in medical logistics," said Lt. Col. Marsha Langlois, Logistics Management Branch chief. "We (LMB) constantly strive to incorporate lessons learned and scenario-based exercises into our curriculums to enhance training."



Students from the 91J Medical Logistics Specialist Course receive weapons training during a field training exercise at Camp Bullis. The Logistics Management Branch, which also runs the 70K Health Services Materiel Officer Course, offers nine 91J courses a year to about 500 students.

Happenings

Trinity University walk

The Randolph Roadrunners Volkmarch Club will host two 10K walks and a 5K walk Saturday, starting at the Chapman Graduate Center, 715 Stadium Drive, at Trinity University. For more information, call Larry Cook at 525-8900, e-mail LarCoo@texas.net or visit www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/.

Rainbow Kids open auditions

Fort Sam Houston's Youth Services will hold open auditions for the Rainbow Kids, a performing arts group, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston School Age Services building, located off Winans and Dodd Roads, across from the chapel. Auditions are open for boys and girls ages 6 through 13 years who like to sing, dance and perform comedy or special acts. For more information, call Ron Joy at 348-8014 or 295-2093 or e-mail rj96707@ yahoo.com; the Youth Center at 221-3502 or 221-4882; or School Age Services at 221-4466.

Volunteer

Special Olympics support

The Fort Sam Houston Commissary will sponsor a "Score big with a hole in one" Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. to support Special Olympics. Donations are \$1 for a possible hole-in-one. Receive a complimentary gift and a chance for a grand prize. Donations support the local Special Olympics chapter. For more information, call Teresa Harrison at (800) 677-5616, ext. 00417.

Shoulder study volunteers

The Army Medical Department Center and School seeks volunteers between the ages of 18 to 50 who are experiencing shoulder pain for a research study on the effects of "thoracic spine manipulation on patients with shoulder impingment." For more information, call 2nd Lt. Bradley Ritland at 382-9332 or e-mail bradley.ritland@us.army.mil.

Marching band seeks members

Officials of the Alamo City Community Marching Band have open registration for their 2006 marching band. Seating will be accepted in all sections of the band to include flags and twirlers. Anyone 18 years of age or older is encouraged to apply. The band practices Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 3518 Fredericksburg Road. For more information, call 733-0120 or visit www.alamocityband.org.

Girl Scouts seek volunteers

Girl Scouts of the San Antonio area are looking for adults to lead Girl Scout troops in the community. Help young girls grow up to be strong, confident and compassionate. Volunteers do not have to have a daughter in a troop to help. For more information, call Carla Mendez at 349-2404, ext. 217 or e-mail cmendez@sagirlscouts.org.

BAMC needs volunteers

Brooke Army Medical Center seeks volunteer drivers for its caremobiles, which transport patients from the BAMC parking lot to the clinic entrance. For more information, call Jessica Veilluex at 916-3862.

SAMM volunteer opportunity

San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, a nonprofit organization that runs the largest homeless shelter and transitional housing program in San Antonio, seeks volunteers for its various charity missions. For more

information on upcoming projects, call Betty Schwartz at 340-0302, ext. 224.

Professional Development

Army Reserve opportunities

The U.S. Army Reserve is actively recruiting. For more information, call (800) USA-ARMY or visit www.goarmyreserve.com.

Military intelligence recruiting

The 6th Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, seeks Soldiers to fill military intelligence positions at Camp Bullis. For more information, call Sgt 1st Class Barbara Richardson at 295-7629.

Army health care recruiting

A health care professional's greatest calling is to serve the Soldiers who defend our nation's freedom. The U.S. Army offers virtually every health care specialty found in the civilian sector. Call an Army health care recruiter to learn about opportunities for direct commissions, scholarships, internships and residencies at 692-7376 or visit www.healthcare.goarmy.com.

Green to Gold briefing

The Fort Sam Houston Education Center provides monthly Green to Gold briefings for Soldiers interested in Green to Gold ROTC scholarships. Capt. Chez Varela, from St. Mary's University, will be available to answer questions Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Building 2247, next to the education center, in the training room. For more information, call 221-9881.

Army Knowledge Online training

The Family Employment Readiness Program will offer Army Knowledge Online training to family members today from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. at Willis Hall, Building 2841, Room 1406. A valid military family member ID card is required. For more information, call Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427 or Gabriele Dias at 221-0516.

Job Interview workshops

The Family Employment Readiness Program will offer a job interview skills workshop Jan. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Reservations and a valid military family member ID card is required. For more information, call Gabriele Dias 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger 221-0427.

Free computer training

Family members of active duty military personnel can receive computer training for the job market through the Family Employment Readiness Program. Automated, self-paced training is available on all Microsoft Office software that includes Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Windows, Outlook, QuickBooks (accounting), customer service, clerical and typing skills. Typing instruction is also available in Spanish. For more information, call Gabriele Dias 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger 221-0427.

Caregiver workshops

KLRN will host Family, Friends and Neighbors training sessions in San Antonio for home-based caregivers. Two sessions will be provided, one in English, one in Spanish. The FFN workshops are free and open to the public. Dinner and childcare is provided at all of the sessions. The Spanish series is Tuesdays through Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.; the English series is Wednesdays through Feb. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. Classes are held at the Wesley Community Center, 1406 Fitch St. Space

is limited. For more information or to sign up, call 270-9000, ext. 2265.

Surface Deployment workshop

The Surface Deployment and Distribution Command will host the Western Regional Training workshop from Feb. 6 through 9 at the St. Anthony Wyndam Hotel in San Antonio. The workshop will showcase SDDC's expanded distribution and deployment mission. The theme is "Synchronizing the Plan" and is geared for functional level personnel, active duty, reserve component, National Guard and Department of Department civilians, to include installation transportation officers and contractors who work for DoD. For more information, visit www. sddc.army.mil.

Army online training

Army e-Learning is available for all Army personnel; people can access more than 2,600 distance learning courses to include business skills, interpersonal skills, computer professional and computer user skills, environmental, safety and health courses, 29 foreign languages, and more than 80 information technology vendor certification exams. Army e-Learning offers personal mentoring for most IT certifications, in addition to promotion points and college credits. Also included is temporary access to more than 8,000 online books so people can assess their value to the workforce. This is a free service. For more information, visit https://usarmy. skillport.com/rkusarmy/login/usarmylo-

Trinity to present MLK lecture

In honor of the late Martin Luther King Jr., Trinity University will host a lecture by Randall Kennedy, a Harvard law professor, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium on the Trinity campus. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call Trinity's office of public relations at 999-8406.

IO opportunities

Functional Area 30 (Information Operations) seeks highly motivated year group 1997-2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in the Brigade Combat Team, divisions, corps and joint positions. Interested officers in YG 1998-2001 can request career field designation by completing the online preference form at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfam dd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm or by contacting the IO career management officer, Maj. Gregory Mogavero, at gregory. mogavero@us.army.mil or (703) 325-5791. All other interested officers can request redesignation to IO through the Human Resource Center IO career management officer. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ken Krumm at (913) 684-5318 or H. David Pendleton at (913) 684-5320.

Warrant officers needed

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for those who qualify. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478/0271/ 1860. The toll free number is (800) 223-3735, ext. 6 and the last four of the phone number.

St. Mary's University

20 master of arts and master of science degrees as well as community counseling and international relations online degree programs. Spring term begins Jan. 18.

Course schedules are available online at www.stmarytx.edu/registrar. For more information, call 658-4852.

Cyber security programs at OLLU

Students interested in information technology careers can now specialize in cyber security through programs offered at Our Lady of the Lake University. In addition to traditional technology courses, students take courses geared toward computer and network security management. An OLLU representative will be at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, visit www.ollusa.edu.

2006 accident avoidance training

The 2006 accident avoidance training schedule will be the first and third Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 902, 32nd Brigade Headquarters, on Harney Road. For more information or to sign up, call Mitch Geary at 221-3824.

Meetings

Comptroller symposium

The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptroller will host the 2006 Professional Development Symposium Feb. 6 and 7 at Retama Park. The theme for this year's symposium is, "Riding The Waves of Change." Certified Defense Financial Manager testing will be available both days. Deadline for pre-registration is Jan. 13. On-site registration will be available. For more information, contact an ASMC representative.

Federally Employed Women

The Fort Sam Houston Federally Employed Women Chapter seeks members for its organization. The chapter meets the second Wednesday of the month. FEW enhances career opportunities for women, maintains a unified and diverse membership and provides opportunities for professional growth through leadership development, education, mentoring and networking. For more information, call Arcelia Longoria at 658-4046 or 823-6344.

SMA seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets every third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Sam Houston Club. Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy W. Burke, president of the association, invites active duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to the meetings. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Danielle Lewis at 916-4114 or Sgt. Maj. Kyong In Nichols at 221-1266.

Alamo Silver Wings

The Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association, VFW 9186, seeks members for its organization. Join the spirit and tradition of airborne. Meetings are every third Thursday of the month. For more information, call Joe Turella at 657-0028.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Micaela Reyes at 221-8947.

St. Mary's University offers more than

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, call Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 295-0512; include military or Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name on request. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. There is a two-week maximum and a limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.

For Sale: Nova adjustable walker with posi-grip handles and durable skid resistant rubber tips, \$35. Call 495-2296.

For Sale: Queen Anne-style sofa table with drawer, \$125 obo. Call 673-9649.

For Sale: New Epson Stylus C86 inkjet printer, \$50. Call 316-6309.

For Sale: Aquarium, 75 gallons with wood stand, top filtration system and CO2 tank for live plants, \$450 obo.

Call 595-8602 or 381-0235.

For Sale: 2001 Harley-Davidson 883 XL Sportster, screaming eagle exhaust, low mileage, \$6,300. Call 643-1639.

For Sale: Video chair, maroon, \$10; five Disney lithographs, framed, \$10 each; White Hot three-ball putter, \$25 obo. Call 697-9261.

For Sale: Hedstrom jumping horse, \$47; highchair, \$15; cradle with mattress, \$150; new twin stroller, \$150;

stroller, \$20. Call 633-3859.

For Sale: Two-inch receiver hitch with mounting hardware and installation instructions for 1994 or newer Ford Ranger, \$100 obo. Call 221-1020 days or 494-8401 evenings.

For Sale: Queen-size bedroom set, \$300; antique dressers, \$150 each; antique rocker, \$75; oak trestle table, \$250; four chairs, \$150. Call 826-0308.

Wanted: Seeking to purchase this year's pecans. Call 673-9649.

A health care professional's greatest calling is to serve the Soldiers that defend our Nation's freedom.



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